Counterpoise

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLXI **February 2010** **Number 2**

50 YEAR Anniversary ARCEC

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting: February 11, 2010 7:00 pm

Table of Contents

From The President	Page 2
Meeting Minutes	Page 3
From The Vice President	Page 4
Calendar of Events	Page 4
Membership Application	Page 5
Fun Page	Page 6
Ask an Elmer	Page 7
Editor's Corner	Page 8
Public Relations	Page 8
Quote of the Month	Page 8
Joke	Page 8
The Weed Patch	Page 9
Chicken Noodle Soup	Page 10
Membership	Page 13
ARCEC Photos	Page 15
QuartzFest Photos	Page 16
QuartzFest Photos	Page 17
Monica Zech PIO EL Cajon	Page 18
At Large	Page 19

All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022
The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:
WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net or by post
12207 Vahalla Dr. Lakeside CA. 92040
The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
Web Site: http://www.wa6bgs.org

Counterpoise E-Mail address
WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net
15.8h



Next Meeting

Program: "Sharpening Your Emergency Communications (EMCOMM) Operating Skills"

Speaker: Marty Woll N6VI, who is our ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director.

2010 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Vice-President	W6GRK	Gary Kushe	562-5391
Secretary	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Treasurer	KI6TTF	Joseph Matterson	

2010 Board of Directors

Affiliated Clubs	AE6AV	Larry Plummer	460-1818
Antenna Parties	AF6MX	Carl Cookson	
Membership	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Net Manager	KG6TDP	Mike Oberbauer	444-9090
Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Elmer	AD6UK	Nick Prodanovich	
Past President	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogie" Panger	263-4439

2010 Standing Committees

Bylaws	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
Counterpoise Editor	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Education	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
EOC H2O District	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Estate Sales	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Field Day	KO4QT	Steve Weed	733-2320
Health & Welfare	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	697-8655
Historian	KI6QDB	Paul Weekley	
Instructor	AE6QW	Gordon Shackelford	561-6323
Photographer	KI6EEL	Bridget Rios	
Post Mistress	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Prizes	AF6BC	Floyd Lang	697-8655
Public Relations	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
SANDARC Delegate	K5WFW	Len Fulbright	258-1322
Social Chair		Polo Navarro	328-6209
Swap Meet	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Technical	W2IRI	Bob Boehme	448-4728
Ticket Lady	KI6EEK	Lisie Rios	
WA6BGS Trustee	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
WAMO	KI6UWG	Michael Weekly	
Web Master	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Welcome	KI6EEL	Bridget Rios	

Staff and Writers

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
W6GRK	Gary	Vice President
KO4QT	Steve	Where is the Weed Patch
N6OPH	Mike	Meeting Minutes
KI6FIH	Monica	PIO City of El Cajon
KI6UWG	Michael	WAMO
KI6EEK	Lisie	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	Amateur Radio at Large
AZ6CW	Morris	Chicken Noodle Soup
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
KI6EEL	Bridget	Photos

SANTEE DRIVE-IN
SWAP MEET
10990 Woodside Ave., North
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

From The President

Paul KC6QLS



We had seventy-three People at the first meeting of the year! I would like to thank Joseph, KI6TTF for stepping up and volunteering for Treasurer.

Joseph, KI6TTF has put the "Radio Active" on the Ham Band! With his 2nd Quakenet 2.1 under his belt, he has shaken up the local Ham Radio Community and got them to use their radios from the work place, driving down the road, walking with an HT, on top of a hill and from their QTH. Mode was simplex and on a repeater. Simplex was used to see how far you can really talk if the local repeaters went down, like some have done in the 2003 & 2007 Fire Storms. I was able to hear the net going on and it sounds like he has a good handle on it. I hope when the big one hits, he will be Net Control. With his 4X4, radios, antenna, battery power setup, and paper and pens, he is ready to go! The Drills are needed to test and build your skill set so you will be ready for the next emergency too. Job well done!

Lastly, the Club's Reflector is for Amateur Radio for sale or wanted items; to facilitate scheduling of an antenna party; for questions about Amateur Radio and gear; for listing Club events and Amateur Radio events in general: and to distribute Club related information. Please refrain from discussing the usual "taboo" topics. If you wish to discuss personalmattes please contact that person directly by using their email address. If you have not signed up for the Reflector, you can so at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/

73, Paul Rios, KC6QLS President

NEW WAMO E-MAIL ADDRESS

WorkAllMembersOnly@gmail.com

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting
14 January 2010



The General Membership Meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by the Club President Paul, KC6QLS at 1900hrs. A moment of silence was observed for the people of Haiti.

After the Pledge of Allegiance visitors and new members were welcomed. Today's silent auction was Top Flite golf balls.

SECRETARY'S REPORT **was approved as published in the *Counterpoise*.**

Paul reported that Gordon, AE6QW has resigned his position as Club Treasurer. Joseph, KI6TTF was appointed as the Club Treasurer. The appointment was approved by the Board of Directors. It was moved and seconded that Joseph be confirmed as the Treasurer by the General Membership. The motion was carried.

TREASURER **Joseph, KI6TTF gave his report. It was approved as read and filed for audit. The books will be ready for audit this month.**

It was announced the upcoming San Dieguito Half Marathon which will be held on 14 February in Rancho Sante Fe.

Joseph, KI6TTF reported on the Quake Net that was started in October 2009.

This evening's speaker Bob, KG6RGI was introduced to the membership by Gary, W6GRK. This evening's topic is Amateur Radio in Red Cross operations.

There was a fifteen minute break after the program. After the break the business meeting continued.

PRESIDENT **Paul, KC6QLS welcomed the new Board Members. This is the Club's 50th Anniversary. Nick, AD6UK will explain his Elmering duties for the club during the February meeting as he is not in attendance this evening. Paul, KC6QLS announced his appointments to the various committee chairs. The listing of those appointments will appear in the colophon of the *Counterpoise*.**

VICE PRESIDENT **Gary, W6GRK asked the General Membership for ideas for speakers for the balance of the year. Gary suggested that one of the speakers would be from the US Forest Service. The Quartzsite Ham Fest will begin on 17 January and will cover two weekends. Steve, KO4QT will be there to offer convention sign-ups. The Pine Valley Tech Class will be on 17 February. Contact Steve, AD6VI for information on that and other classes that are being offered in late January and February. The T-shirt and jacket order has arrived. The cost would be $10. The jackets are Kelly green. The jackets are $21.**

NET MANAGER **Mike, KG6TDP announced that there were 19 check-ins during the last net.**

SANDARC **meeting date has changed to the third Tuesday of each month at the same location at the Kearny Mesa Recreation center. The first meeting of SANDARC would be held on Tuesday 19, January at 1900hrs.**

EDUCATION REPORT **was given by Mike, N6OPH. The Technician Class has started on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month through February. The General Theory course will start in middle March. The Technician Class is being taught by Mike, N6OPH and the General Course will be taught by Gordon AE6QW.**

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON **Ann, KC6TBG announced that we had 68 in attendance with 5 visitors for a total of 73 persons present.**

PUBLIC SERVICE CHAIRMAN **Rich, N6NKJ reported on the Wild Fire Training Classes.**

SOCIAL CHAIRMAN **Polo is seeking more volunteers for Field Day.**

There being no further business before the General Membership, the meeting was adjourned at 2050hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Michael Maston, N6OPH
Secretary
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon



From The Vice President W6GRK Gary



Well it's hard to believe another month has gone by. And in that month we brought in the New Year. We welcomed two new Club Board Members, Carl Cookson, AF6MX and Nick Prodanovich, AD6UK. At the first Board Meeting, we put them to work. Carl was appointed and accepted to chair the "Antenna Party Committee" and Nick was appointed and accepted the Elmer position in the club. If anybody needs help installing or removing antennas in the club, please contact Carl who will organize a team. You can email Carl at: af6mx@live.com or his phone number is listed on the club website under the "Officers" button. Likewise, if anybody needs help regarding radio information, new Hams or old Hams with a question(s), contact Nick at: prod143@cox.net . His phone number can also be located on the club website under the "Officers" button. One thing Nick will be doing soon is putting together a resource list for the club to help out new Hams with programming their radios. If any of you have programming software and cables to program your HT radios, Mobil radios, or base stations, please let Nick know by sending him an email listing they type, model and brand of radio. Once he has established a data base, he can help out new Hams to program their radios as well as our club members.

Quakenet 2.1 Emergency Preparedness Drill was held January 17, 2010, the anniversary of the Northridge Earthquake. Joseph, Ki6TTF put together a team of operators on top of a local mountain top operating a 2 meter simplex net. Four relay stations scattered throughout the county were also used on this exercise. Approximately ninety percent of the registered participants were able to make contact directly or through one of the relay stations. This was another Hugh success. The next scheduled Quakenet Emergency Preparedness Drill is QuakeNet 2.2 on Sunday, April 18, 2010. That is

Continued on Page 14

WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Axel	KI6RRN	Donut Net

WAMO NETS:
Wednesday and Saturday Nights
8:00 p.m. local time 7:45 "Early Checkins"
This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken.

Donut Net:
Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Bring your Donuts. GOT MILK?

Wide Open Ham Net:
Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Frito's Corn Chip Net:
Thursday, 7:00 p.m. on 28.435 Mhz USB

Nets held on Club's WA6BGS Repeaters System
RX 147.420 (146.475) 107.2 PL
RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL
RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL
Don't miss it. All members welcome.

WAMO means Worked All Members Only.
The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.

Calendar of Events February 2010

Feb.	2:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Feb.	6:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Feb.	6:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Feb.	11:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
Feb.	19:	Yuma Ham Fest
Feb.	20:	Yuma Ham Fest
Feb.	22:	Counterpoise Dead Line

Upcoming Event Dates

Sept.	17:	ARRL SW Convention San Diego

ARCEC Membership Form

Please print clearly, ***complete all info*** and return to Membership Chair with your payment:

☐ Individual Membership $18.00 ☐ Family Membership $30.00

☐ Counterpoise by MAIL add $18.00 ☐ Counterpoise by Email or Website FREE

Name: _____ Class of License: _____

Other Family Members and Calls: _____

Address: _____

Call: _____ WAMO #: _____ Birthday: _____

Phone #: _____ Email address: _____

Check One: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Returning Member

*If you are a returning member, you will keep your original WAMO # _____

Check One: I give my permission to publish my info on the Club Roster coming out ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, state exactly what information you do not want published:

_____

Check all the apply: ARRL Member ARES Member Other _____

Would you like to be in the Counterpoise Spotlight? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to be a member of The East County Response Team? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Mail with payment to: Membership Chair, ARCEC, P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

*****To be eligible for the drawing, must be postmarked no later then December 1 of the year.***

REV 9-2-2009

HAM RADIO OUTLET
WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

5375 Kearny Villa Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 560-4900 or 1-800-854-6046

LAKESIDE MUFFLER & WELDING
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR



GARY YATES
OWNER

(619) 561-3202

12461 WOODSIDE AVE.
LAKESIDE, CA 92040

The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: www.wa6bgs.org

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in *.PDF* format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file maybe up to 1.5 mb at times.

Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

FUN PAGE

Birthday

February	1	KI6FIH	Tassy	Rios
February	2	WB6NMR	Angelo	Boccia
February	4	K5WFW	Len	Fulbright
February	7	WD6FDD	Richard	Wilkerson
February	15	AF6MF	Richard	Kieny
February	15	W5COM	Tom	Bryan
February	17	K6GTP	George	Roullard
February	19	KB6CKM	Harold	Campbell
February	21	KD6PRV	Anselmo	Ruiz
February	23	KG6PRO	Charlie	Porter



Word Search

C	W	Q	W	M	L	V	N	O	I	S	I	V	I	D	M
R	O	T	C	E	R	I	D	W	Y	L	Z	M	U	U	V
F	M	M	L	W	S	T	A	T	I	O	N	V	Q	M	Q
Y	M	L	M	Y	Z	L	T	E	N	E	K	A	U	Q	W
D	V	M	R	U	Q	W	F	M	W	Y	M	W	Y	U	A
W	L	Z	O	E	N	O	I	T	A	I	D	A	R	A	V
M	F	F	I	C	P	I	O	N	O	S	P	H	E	R	E
D	U	W	H	Z	M	O	C	L	Z	W	V	L	Y	T	L
Q	S	S	E	N	D	E	R	A	P	E	R	P	L	Z	E
V	R	X	M	M	W	M	V	T	T	Q	U	Q	X	F	N
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D	E	R	E	F	L	E	C	T	O	R	L	N	W	J	F
L	V	V	N	X	H	S	M	Q	U	E	J	H	L	U	O
H	Z	E	C	V	U	N	O	I	T	S	E	U	Q	L	S
N	A	V	Y	E	Z	Q	R	T	H	Y	M	G	J	W	B

- ☐ AIR
- ☐ ANTENNA
- ☐ COMMUNICATION
- ☐ DIRECTOR
- ☐ DIVISION
- ☐ ELMERS
- ☐ EMCOMM
- ☐ EMERGENCY
- ☐ IONOSPHERE
- ☐ NAVY
- ☐ PREPAREDNESS
- ☐ QUAKENET
- ☐ QUARTZFEST
- ☐ QUESTION
- ☐ RADIATION
- ☐ REFLECTOR
- ☐ REPORT
- ☐ SKILLS
- ☐ STATION
- ☐ WAVELENGTH

Brain Thinkers

17 = D. is Q. N.

17 Day is Quake Net

102 = F. in the E. S. B.

102 Floors in the Empire State Building

365 = D in a Y.

365 Days in a Year

---------- This Months ----------

2 = H. B. as O.

Last Months Word Search



ASK AN ELMER

This month's question: What is "Take off Angle"?

Another term for "Take off Angle" is "Angle of Radiation" (in some circles and to the misinformed, "Angle of *Radiation*" may not be the "politically correct" term to use). "Take off Angle" has to do with the angle your High Frequency (HF) signal takes once it leaves your antenna to get to the Ionosphere (a layer of the earth's atmosphere that reflects radio waves back to the earth... more on this next month).

Remember this rule:

1. **The *higher* your antenna, the *lower your* "angle of radiation"!**

   AND

2. **The *lower* your antenna, the *higher* your "angle of radiation"!**

Why is this important to know? If your intent in HF communications is to talk to stations in distant lands (DXing), you'll want a low "take off angle". To get this low "angle of radiation", you'll want to mount your antenna a 1/2 wavelength or higher above the ground (to calculate a half wavelength for your antenna, divide 468 by your antenna's resonant frequency..in MHz). This height will allow your signal to travel just above the earth's horizon to the ionosphere which is 90 to 240 miles above the earth before it's reflected by the electrical density of the ionosphere's "F" Layer" back to earth (again, more on this next month). The distance your signal will travel with this "*low* angle of radiation" can easily be 1500 miles or more (depending on your operating frequency and where we are in the sunspot cycle..yet another topic in an upcoming issue of the "Counterpoise" "Ask an Elmer" column).

If your intent is to communicate shorter distances, you'll want to mount your antenna closer to the ground. A good example of this is the "Nearly Vertical Incidence Skywave" or "NVIS" antenna (you guessed it, this is another topic for Elmer A. Ham to cover in an upcoming issue of the "Counterpoise"). NVIS antennas are frequently used by HAM's participating in "emergency" radio communications or the Military in tactical radio operations. The idea behind the NVIS is to send your radio signal, as it's name states, "Nearly Vertically". To do this, you can mount your antenna as close as 1/20 wavelength above the ground. In this configuration, your signal will travel almost straight up to the ionosphere, and return straight back down to the earth. Communications with a NVIS antenna can range from a few miles up to 500 miles.

A more detailed but easy to understand article written about "Take off Angle" or "Angle of Radiation" can be found at: *http://www.mikezulu.com/angle.htm*

As always, Happy HAMing.

73,

Elmer A. Ham

Next month's question: "What is the Ionosphere and what's it do?"



The Editor's Corner
KC6QLS Paul



Editor's Corner

This month is the first installment of where is the Weed Patch. Hope you enjoy the new column!

73 Paul Rios, KC6QLS
Editor

Public Relations

Yuma Ham Fest is here! Drive down on February 19th for a full day of Hamming it up or even better do the whole weekend. WalMart in Lakeside at 400 hours is the spot to be on Saturday, from there a convoy takes off to Yuma at about 430 hours. I will be down there Friday selling some items and making the badges and a Seminar on Saturday at 1140 hours on Amateur Radio on TV and The Silver Screen.

73 Paul Rios, KC6QLS Public Relations

2010 ARRL Southwestern Division

Amateur Radio Convention

September 17, 18 & 19, 2010

San Diego, California

Four Points, By Sheraton Hotel

San Diego

For up to date information about the Convention, please visit us at the website: www.sandarc.org/

See you at the Convention!

Volunteers Needed

Up Coming Events
See Club's Calendar on Page 4

E-Mail

Address for the Counterpose. Please submit all *Counterpoise* Mail to:
WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. Please contact: Floyd Lang AF6BC at 303-6711.

Things to keep in mind

Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector
To sign up visit:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/
You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

Quote of the Month

True love stories never have endings.

- Author: A Wise and Happy Person

JOKE

What did one magnet say to the other?

- I find you very attractive.

What kind of cats like to go bowling?

- Alley cats.

Lisie KI6EEK



THE WEED PATCH

Hi all. It's been a long 2 months since we last saw you. Linda and I headed east after the Club Christmas Party to spend a couple weeks at Borrego Springs State Park. A couple days later, we received a call from my niece in Seattle who said my sister had been taken to Hospice. We decided we needed to be there for her… so about 15 minutes later, we were on the road headed north. We got to Seattle in just two days… in time to see my sister before she passed. Cancer Sucks! I can't thank the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon enough for sending a beautiful bouquet of flowers. We didn't have much time to spend on the radio while there and didn't even set up an antenna. I know some of you tried to contact us on HF… sorry. I tried to work Paul KC6QLS a couple times (briefly), 40 meters from the mobile… without much luck.

We headed back south to warmer weather on New Year's Day and made it over the mountains between snow storms. In Yreka CA, while driving around town, I turned on 20m, spun the VFO and heard a station in Fairbanks Alaska. I keyed up and gave him a call and both Linda and I were able to talk to him. A few minutes later while I was outside the truck putting diesel in the tank, Linda hollered out the window… "isn't Mike's call KI6MUH?" I said yes… she said he was just on the radio… same 20m frequency. We didn't want to take over the Alaskan stations frequency, so we didn't go back to him. I shot Mike an email a few minutes later to let him know we heard him… he shot one back saying he'd worked the same station earlier and left the rig on… and heard us making our contact. Mike, thanks… for those of you who don't know Mike, he's WAMO# 1752 and lives in Alpine CA.

Back on the road, Paul called me on the phone… at that moment, we were in of all places, "Weed" California. We fired up 40 meters. He called me and was a solid S9 plus, and he had a good copy on me as well… then the band shifted, Paul totally disappeared… just that fast! That one key-up and transmission to each other was all we got! We rolled in to Lake Havasu City a couple days later. Before we could even get into our space in the RV Park, we were stopped by Art N7AEH who ask if we were HAM's… if you've seen our truck, imagine that! Within 20 minutes, we were set up and had our antenna's in the air… and made a radio check, with of all stations, the same guy we worked from Yreka, in Fairbanks Alaska. Art and I got together a few times for eyeball QSO's before they pulled out. He had a nice shack set up in his motor home… with an older Yaesu mobile HF rig… I wish I'd noted the model number. He didn't have antenna's mounted on his RV, but did have a Hustler 5-BTV (same as our vertical) strapped to his roof. He said he didn't have any way to mount it so he hadn't spent much time on the air except when he has room to set up his 20m dipole. After looking at our antenna installation, he said he was going to put more emphasis on getting his HF Vertical working. From Lake Havasu City I was able to work George WB6YEC in Lemon Grove and Roy KF6NQG WAMO# 1416 in San Diego on 75 meters "AM".

For a little over a week, we've been in Quartzsite AZ. The town of Quartzsite has a population of less than 4,000… but, during the RV show that's held here every January, the population soars to well over 1 million. RV's are everywhere across the desert, as far as you can see… every make and model you can imagine! There are hundreds of groups that meet here every year in different parts of the desert who share like interests. The group we were with calls the event, "QuartzFest" www.quartzfest.org . QuartzFest is not a club, no officers, no budget, and not affiliated with or sanctioned by any organization. QuartzFest's continued success exists because of the many

Continued Page 12

Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul

"ARRL Announces New 75 Meter Amateur Radio Phone Net"

Turmoil and change have shaken the ranks of our hobby in recent years. Controversy over incentive licensing, the role of the code, and concern over the dwindling ranks of our hobby have caused angst and sown the seeds of division among hams, young and old. Now, with the spring of renewal in Cycle 24 upon us, it is time for a healing catharsis for our hobby, with "Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul".

A surprise development has occurred in the Amateur Radio hobby with the recent announcement from the ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio, that a new HF radio net has been organized in the 75 meter US Amateur Radio phone band. The new net, referred to among ARRL officials as the *"Aches and Pains Amateur Radio Net"* is the result of an investigation into the root cause behind legions of new Hams choosing not to renew their ARRL membership. The investigation involved intensive membership focus group analysis by the ARRL Public Relations department and follow up by the ARRL Board of Directors.

A key age group within the hobby, the 20 – 35 year old Ham, is a demographic identified as a "must win" for subscription sales for the League and critical for continued growth within the Ham hobby. This segment has been identified as important to continuing the path of stabilizing membership for ARRL. Based on most recent League data, indications pointed to membership renewals among this age "segment" eroding. An ARRL Board of Directors, already wrestling with lagging ARRL revenue, immediately launched an investigation into the root cause of the renewal decline. The investigation, conducted by public relations professionals and utilizing Ham 'focus groups,' led to the discovery of the reasons behind the erosion in renewals among the key age segment. The underlying reasons were twofold; first, this group was licensed after FCC dropped the Morse telegraphy requirement on US Amateur Radio exams, and as a result the group operated primarily on HF phone. With poor band conditions and a slowly reviving sunspot cycle, many of these Hams were operating on the *75 meter* phone band. And the second underlying reason lies with the age of this group. In the demographics of an aging hobby, these Hams are considered relatively young. As the focus group interviews revealed, many of these younger Hams were subjected to listening to older, more 'mature' Hams complaining on-air, about various aches and pains they were suffering. As a result, these younger Hams developed a sort of identification with the on-air complainants, where the young Hams not only began to feel bad physically, but also started to feel bad about operating on the 75 meter phone band. As a result of lack of on-air activity, many became complacent about renewal of their ARRL membership.

Once these startling focus group results were made known to the board of directors, the League immediately authorized an emergency "crash program" aimed at re-energizing interest among the sagging Ham segment. The board turned to retired ARRL President Jim Hayne KC1H to lead the effort to identify and implement the best strategy to quickly reverse the declining interest among this key age segment. Hayne, revered among the ARRL Board of Directors and League members alike, is remembered for his mild manner and down to earth folksiness. Well-educated and public relations minded, Hayne was tapped for his proven track record in problem solving.

Chicken Noodle Soup Continued

ARRL Spokesperson Terry Jennings-Hargsgood-Bergroyne-Hasselflat adds, "The most often repeated comment among those Hams interviewed was the litany of physical ills heard over the air on 75 meter phone band. While the committee and the ARRL Board recognize there is a certain therapeutic element in being able to share the realities of one's physical condition with fellow Hams, based on comments from respondents in this key Ham segment, it is clear that on the 75 meter phone band, we have seen a 'tipping point' where these conversations have become a turn off." In his classic folksiness, Hayne adds; "Like my grandfather used to say; '*Don't advertise your troubles, there's no market for 'em*.' "

With the problem identified, the committee quickly set to work to identify strategies most likely to succeed in changing the atmosphere on the 75 meter phone band, and other Ham Radio frequencies. Exploring possible strategies, the League contacted the "Web MD Health Corporation," the organization behind the widely respected internet site "Web MD." What the League proposed was no less than a partnership combining the resources of the ARRL and Web MD, where an on-air resource would be offered to the entire Ham population. With this on-air resource, Hams could check into a net, or just listen, and express what was hurting or tell where it hurt. Dubbed the "*Aches and Pains Radio Net*" in early discussions, the concept proved to be a durable model. Web MD would offer licensed health care providers who were also licensed Radio Amateurs. These care providers would be available on-air for each net session, available to comment or offer advice on a nearby frequency if needed. Since the "mature" Ham segment is thought to be less internet-technology savvy, it was decided to opt for an on-air format, compared to a web-based model. The approach would provide a resource for a group of Hams who were in need, as well as gathering all discussions around physical ailments on one frequency, thus clearing other band frequencies of the 'physical ailment chatter.' As Jim Hayne was quoted during the initial web-based proposal presentation to the League board; ***"Put it another way, if you've gotta have 'waste material' in your bucket, its best to have it in <u>one bucket</u>."***

Clare Martorana is Senior Vice President & General Manager of Web MD Health Corporation, a leading provider of health information services. In an interview with "*Chicken Noodle Soup*," Martorana explains "Web MD is an on-line medical resource, consisting of an enormous database which allows our users to learn of treatments and symptoms or a long list of illnesses and conditions. Web MD is guided by an independent medical review board of noted physicians and provides health news for the public. Web MD also provides up to date medical reference content databases which include medical imagery, graphics and animation. We bring this content and proven competency into this partnership with the ARRL."

In an unguarded moment, Hayne confided to "*Chicken Noodle Soup*" that initial attempts at the right format were less than successful. "We considered naming the enterprise the "*Rumatoid Riders*" or "*Feeling Bad Club*." Somehow, that just didn't resonate with the 'mature' Amateur group. Then, one day we were all discussing how a net operates, and the light just came on. It just seemed natural to call the net '*Aches and Pains Radio Net.'"* The net offers all participants the opportunity to 'check in' or receive 'validation' from net control. The checking in station is noted in the log, this process itself documented to have therapeutic value. Then, the station is asked if he or she has any 'aches or pains' they would like to discuss with a licensed, health care professional. If the answer is 'yes,' the appropriate professional responds to net control, and suggests a suitable frequency above or below the net frequency. When medical emergencies are

Continued Page 12

Even More Weed Patch

HAM's dedicated to seeing it go on... all of whom are dedicated volunteers. QuartzFest started out about 12 years ago and is just a bunch of HAM's getting together, camping in their RV's in the middle of the desert... no power, no restrooms, no running water. This year there were 132 RV's that signed in for QuartzFest (probably over 200 people), there may have been more here, but they didn't sign the roster. Maybe next year we'll have more. Solar Panels and Generators were everywhere. If you want to see how well you're prepared and how long you can last in an emergency or disaster, "Boondocking" out here in the desert for a week will show you. The organizers for QuartzFest 2010 (and 2008/2009 as well) were Cliff WD7ZBP and his wife Virginia KE4VRW. This was our first year at QuartzFest and were totally impressed and blown away by all that Cliff and Virginia had planned for the week. It was like a mini-HamFest with seminars for both HAM's and non-HAMs covering everything from Genealogy, APRS and WinLink/WinMor to a solar panel system that moves with the sun... always facing directly at it for maximum efficiency, Campfires...some with musical entertainment, Movies using the side of an RV as a screen, Cookouts, Eye Ball QSO's, VE Testing, Yard Sale, Geocaching, a 4 Wheel Drive trip in the Desert and lot's of Seasoned RV'ers with advice on how to make your batteries last longer (Axel, we even had "DONUTS"!). Topping off the week, we had an antenna "shoot out" (I tied for the win in the 5 watt QRP category) and an "antenna walkabout" where we looked at a number of antenna setups on RV's to get ideas for future installations.

During our opening ceremony last week, Cliff and Viginia said that this would be their last year as "Organizers" and needed someone to take over for QuartzFest 2011. Can you guess what I'm going to say next? Yep, you're right, Linda and I took on the job! We were introduced to the group Friday evening as next year's organizers and were blown away by the welcome, encouragement and support we received... as well as friendly advice. Among those attending this year who's names you'll probably recognize were Gordon West WB6NOA and Carl Gardenias WU6D, ARRL Orange Section Manager. Keep an eye out for Gordon's article about QuartzFest in an upcoming CQ Magazine, and, if a speaker slot is still available for our San Diego ARRL Southwestern Division Convention in September, Gordon will be holding a seminar and talking about QuartzFest.

short term travel plans will take us to Yuma for their HamFest on February 19th and 20th.

Comments we've gotten about all of the antennas on the truck are many... here are a few: What do you do, talk to the Kremlin with that thing? You talkin' to mars with that thing? And, the one we get all the time that opens the doors to talk about HAM Radio is: What are all them antennas for?

Next month, in addition to filling you in on what went on at the Yuma HamFest, I'll also tell you what I've learned, good and bad, about depending on your batteries to keep you on the air.

See y'all at the Club meeting on February 12th.

73,

Steve KO4QT and Linda KI6JUD

Even More Chicken Noole Soup

announced on frequency, local 'medical resources' can be dispatched for the ailing Ham by net control. If the ailing Ham wishes his or her concerns to be kept private, '*Aches and Pains Radio Net*' professionals are trained to speak 'Pig Latin,' insuring conversations will be kept confidential.

Editor's note: While we sometimes hear complaints about on-air discussion of physical ailments, empathy for those among us suffering from aches and pains is an important part of the human condition and our hobby. But, others may be listening, so complaining Hams are reminded of the old saying... "Don't push it".

Morris AZ6CW

Membership Report

Ann KC6TBG



Everyone's 2009 ARCEC Dues have now expired and everyone's 2010 ARCEC Dues are now due. If you have not already renewed, please do so as soon as possible by filling out the form that is in the Counterpoise, completing all the information, and bringing it to the Febuary Club Meeting or mailing it to the post office box. The 2010 ARCEC Roster will be finalized in February and the new roster will be available at the February meeting. Anyone who does not complete the form will not be published, and anyone wishing to not be published on the Club Roster should be sure to answer the question regarding not to publish your information. Please note that your dues support Field Day and other club events so each member's renewal is vital to the success of our Club.

Congratulations to all who have upgraded your license!

If you have upgraded your license within the past year, please contact me at kc6tbg@cox.net or see me at the meeting so that I can update your information on the ARCEC Roster.

New Members

David Santoro, W6RTS	**WAMO# 1825**
Roy Dooley, KJ6DHE	**WAMO# 1826**
Karen Halloway, KJ6DWX	**WAMO# 1827**
Oliver Wardenaar, KI6DPM	**WAMO# 1828**
Doug Shaw, KI6MBO	**WAMO# 1829**

All Members are welcome to participate on all ARCEC weekly Nets. The WAMO Net is an opportunity to meet new members, collect WAMO's and practice your communication skills. Please join us. For more information on the dates and times, see page 4 of this Newsletter.

The 2009 ARCEC Roster is for club use only. However, please do not use this club roster to contact club members at the telephone numbers and addresses listed on the roster for the purpose of working a WAMO. The Rules for working WAMO are listed on the website and must be followed in order to receive WAMO Certificates. Also, copies of the WAMO Rules are available at club meetings.

73, Ann, KC6TBG

Individual Dues Membership:
$18.00 per year($1.50 per month):

January	**$ 18.00**	**July**	**$ 9.00**
February	**$ 16.50**	**August**	**$ 7.50**
March	**$ 15.00**	**September**	**$ 6.00**
April	**$ 13.50**	**October**	**$ 4.50**
May	**$ 12.00**	**November**	**$ 3.00**
June	**$ 10.50**	**December**	**$ 1.50 ***

***plus $18.00 for the following year**

Family Dues Membership:
$30.00 per year ($2.50 per month):

January	**$ 30.00**	**July**	**$ 15.00**
February	**$ 27.50**	**August**	**$ 12.50**
March	**$ 25.00**	**September**	**$10.00**
April	**$ 22.50**	**October**	**$ 7.50**
May	**$ 20.00**	**November**	**$ 5.00**
June	**$ 17.50**	**December**	**$ 2.50 ***

***plus $30.00 for the following year**

Ann, KC6TBG
Membership Chair

From The Vice-President Continued

the anniversary of the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, M 6.6, and 2 miles offshore from San Francisco.

I would like to thank Bob Birch, KG6RGI for his presentation on "Amateur Radio in Red Cross Operations" during the January General Membership meeting. Our next presentation, "Sharpening Your Emergency Communications (EMCOMM) Operating Skills" presented by Marty Woll N6VI, who is our ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director is scheduled for the February 11, 2010 General Club Meeting.

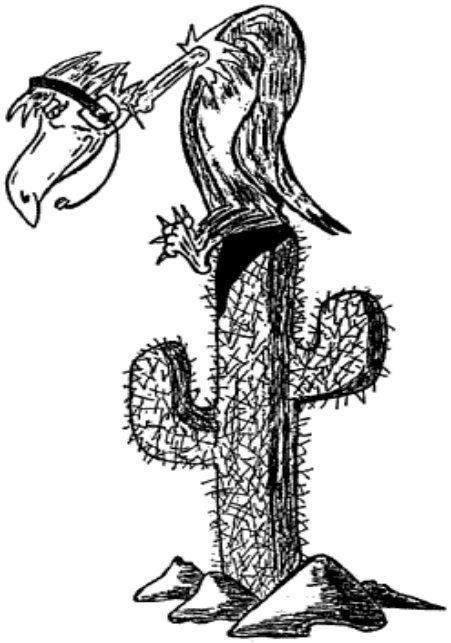
The Club Calendar has been updated and can be accessed on the Club Website. Most of the upcoming events scheduled are listed on the calendar. By clicking your mouse on the event box, it will bring up an additional box with more information about that event.

To view the Calendar on our Club website: www.wa6bgs.org , go to the left side of the page and click the "Calendar" button. When the Calendar page comes up, click the link at the top of the page that says "Please Click Here to View Calendar". The next page that comes up will be the current month. Across the top of the Calendar, you'll see abbreviation's for the months: Jan. through Dec. Just click on the month you want to view and the Calendar for that month will come up. For more information on the event, just click the event box.

73, W6GRK Gary



2010 Yuma Hamfest & Emergency Preparedness Show Yuma, Arizona



Feb. 19th-20th, 2010
Yuma County Fairgrounds

2520 East 32nd Street, YUMA AZ.

On the Web at

http://www.yumahamfest.org/

Hamfest Talk-In Frequency: 146.840 (–) PL 88.5 Hz

Love is on The AIR

Life can be funny at times. In High School I was one of those kids kept to them self. I was so into academic side of things, I only went out with a few girls. There was one girl in school, every time she walked by be my heart skip a beat. I never saw her with a boyfriend she was one of the prettiest girls in school and everyone was too afraid to ask her out. We had Math and English together Senior Year and when we graduated that Summer I went into the Navy.

In the Navy I saw the world, spent time living overseas, and from time to time I always wondered what happened to the girl that I never asked out in High School. I was too busy with my Navel Career to settle down, on the move too much with special ops. I spent my twenty-five years with the Navy and retired and was ready for the next career. I had some radioman experience, so I got my Amateur Radio Licenses, and started to work at a Major Commutations outfit.

Years later, I found myself down at a Ham Fest looking for some new radio gear that I had to have, if I could find some room in the shack. I saw this radio that I wanted when I was a kid. I saw a guy pick it up and started to look at it, I ran over to the booth and waited for him to put it back down. He walked away and I asked how much and did it work? The lady looked at me and said the price and yes it worked the last time I had it hooked up. Then we locked eyes! It was her! The girl from High School. I would know her face anywhere.

After the shock, I asked her is this her Ham Gear? She told me it was hers and her late husband. She got her Ham Call back in High School and met him at a local club meeting. She told me they were marred for twenty-three wonderful years and had one kid now in the Navy. We talked for hours about her life and mine in the Navy. She told me that she had a crush on me back Senior Year but was too afraid to ask me out. I told her I felt the same. I helped her pack up and we went to get a bit to eat.

We talked all night getting caught up on everyone we went to school with. Than she asked me if I ever thought of her over the years and if I still have feelings for her. I told her yes. After a few dates, I asked her to marry me, and she said, YES!

We now have been married for ten years, and I can say I married my High School Sweet Heart. I looked at my station logs and I worked her on a DX Contest and I never gave her much thought. OH, about the radio that started the whole thing, yes, it works!

73, Happy Valentine's Day



QuartzFest 2010
Photos



Opening Ceremony



You think you have RF Trouble With 100's of Hams in one spot and all on the Air...



Steve, KO4QT with Gordo, WB6NOA

QuartzFest 2010
Photos



VE Testing in the Desert



A REAL RADIO FT-101F



KO4QT & KI6JUD QTH on the Road

AKA "The Weed Patch"



Gordo, WB6NOA

with his DSP Speakers



From the Desk of Monica Zech PIO City of El Cajon

2010 CERT Schedule - Free Disaster Preparedness Training

Prepared for a disaster, such as an earthquake or firestorm? Learn how to be better prepared by enrolling in one of our two upcoming East County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) academies. The dates for these free 2010 CERT disaster preparedness classes are listed below, and on the El Cajon Fire Department website at www.elcajonfire.com - register now!

Academy - #1 - (FULL)
February 6 - Disaster preparedness

Academy - #2 - Some Space Available
May 22 - Disaster preparedness/CERT organization
June 5 - Disaster Medical/Triage
June 19 - Extinguishers/Light Search and Rescue classroom - (two week break)
July 10 - Fire Extinguishers/Light Search and Rescue hands on - *At HTF
July 24 - Disaster Psychology/Hazardous Materials/Terrorism
August 7 - All inclusive manipulative/review - *At HTF

***The Heartland Training Facility (HTF) location is 1301 N. Marshal in El Cajon for the hands on training.**

These classes are held on Saturday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Class location for registered CERT students is 8054 Allison Avenue, La Mesa Fire Station 11. If you would like to register please call (619) 441-1737. Please leave your name and best contact phone number.

Classes are limited to 35 to 40 participants per academy, ages 16 and up. Please, for safety concerns, we ask you do not bring babies or children to these classes. Any classes missed may be made up during the following academy. Members of the Heartland Fire and Rescue Departments and Santee Fire Department teach these classes. Visit www.elcajonfire.com for more information on the CERT program.

Stop By The City Of El Cajon Blood Drive

There is still time to lend an arm and register for the City of El Cajon's Annual Blood Drive at City Hall. The date is Thursday, February 4, 2010. Give the gift of life by stopping by the Bloodmobile, which will be located near City Hall, adjacent to the East County Performing Arts Center at 210 E. Main Street, from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment please call (619) 441-1716 or log onto www.sandiegobloodbank.org.

Congressman Hunter's 2010 Job Fair Is Friday, February 19

Congressman Duncan Hunter has announced that he will host a second community job fair in conjunction with the East County Career Center. The event is scheduled for February 19, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Ronald Reagan Community Center in El Cajon, 195 East Douglas Avenue in El Cajon. Bring resumes and dress to impress! The 2009 job fair was a tremendous success, bringing together nearly 50 area businesses and more than a thousand job seekers. This upcoming event provides prospective job candidates another opportunity to speak with representatives of various businesses and industries about their interests and qualifications. Businesses interested in participating in this event must return a completed registration form to Congressman Hunter's office. Interested individuals are also encouraged to return a separate registration form. The forms can be found at www.hunter.house.gov. For more information please contact Congressman Hunter's El Cajon office at (619) 448-5201.

Note: Please keep me informed of your community events by placing me on your mailing or e-mail list. If you have an event in the City of El Cajon that you would like to share, please contact Monica Zech, Public Information Officer for the City of El Cajon, via e-mail at mzech@ci.el-cajon.ca.us, or send to: Monica Zech, Public Information Officer, City of El Cajon, 200 Civic Center Way, El Cajon, CA 92020.

Thank you,
Monica Zech

Amateur Radio At Large

From Rich N6NKJ



Hello again,

If the earthquake that hit Haiti is not a wakeup call for ALL of us to become more active in groups like ARES, REACT, the Red Cross, RACES, REMCOM, or CERT, than I don't know what it will take to shake me/you or us, to get up and take part in some disaster group. I, like many of you, have seen the horrific and tragic scenes on television of the utter destruction and chaos that has come to this country.

Earthquake activity has been on the increase throughout California of late, and it is only a matter of time before we get clobbered. This would be a good time to support Joseph, KI6TTF's efforts in getting people to be ready for an earthquake. Take part in his Quake Nets. The next one is going to be in April. ARE YOU READY FOR AN EARTHQUAKE? Earthquakes are not the only disaster we need to worry about. There is also flooding, fires, or many other types of disasters we need to be ready for. If for no other reason, get better prepared to help you and your family and neighbors. We had another great turn out for our January 2010 meeting, and a very good program about the Red Cross presented by Bob Birch, KG6RGI. Speaking of our club, it is really growing. At our January meeting, we had at least two or three new members join and one "old" member re-join; and that would be old FRIEND Dave, KC6YSO. Thanks Dave for re-joining the club.

The Wild Land Fire Safety Training Class in May is full. I sent out a notice to all the usual groups, and in one week it filled up. I am still putting people on a waiting list. If you would like to come to the training, let me know. There will be one or two more classes here and one in the North county, so if you missed this one, you still can come to one of the other classes.

Before I forget, I want to thank Joseph, KI6TTF, for his willingness to become our new club treasurer, and I hope all of our club members will say thank you as well. If you have never served on the Nominations Committee, and tried to get people to run for an office, you can never know how frustrating it is. This YOUR CLUB! And we need people who are willing to run or fill various positions in the club. So when you are called, please consider running for an office. Well, it is time to send this off to the editor, but as always, remember all of our brave men and women far away from home who are keeping us safe. GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU.

Rich, N6NKJ

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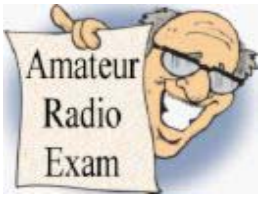
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022

Issue Date 2/2010

For Ham Radio Classes Genarl License Starts Soon

Please Contact: Mike Maston N6OPH (619) 296-9067

Please Visit Our Website at www.WA6BGS.org



VEC Testing Sites

1st Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2nd Saturday:	Carlsbad 9:30 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3rd Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4th Saturday:	Chula Vista 8:30 am Fire Station #7 1640 Santa Venetia Chula Vista
5th or last Saturday:	Escondido 9:00 am LDS Church 1917 East Washington St.

To make advance reservations or to find out more info from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)